



What is claimed is:

1. A method for time-shifted viewing of broadcast audio/video programs comprising:
 - the step of receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs; and
 - the step of storing said programs as data in a cyclic buffer wherein upon being filled said cyclic buffer begins replacing the oldest of said data with the newest of said data; and
 - the step of providing simultaneous playback control of said data independently from said step of storing said programs wherein said playback control comprises random access play, stop, pause, rewind and fast-forward functions;
 - whereby said time-shifted viewing is selectably delayed relative to initiation of said broadcast audio/video programs and which may be initiated and controlled simultaneously with said storing of said programs.
2. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
 - the step of moving said program data from the cyclic buffer to one or more storage devices for archival of said program data;
 - wherein said one or more storage devices are used for selective retrieval, playback and control of said programs.
3. A method as in claim 2 further comprising:
 - the step of storing data representing user-control of playback of said programs on one or more storage devices;
 - wherein said user-control playback data is stored for later use.
4. A method as in claim 3 further comprising:
 - the step of transmitting said user-control playback data to one or more receivers;
 - wherein said user-control playback data is processed externally from the present system.
5. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
 - the step of receiving broadcast program configuration data;
 - wherein said broadcast program configuration data is used for system configuration for one or more particular broadcast programs.
6. A system for time-shifted viewing of broadcast audio/video programs comprising:
 - video input means for receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs; and
 - cyclic buffer means for storing said programs as program data in a cyclical fashion wherein upon being filled, said cyclic buffer begins replacing the oldest data with the newest of said data and is operable for simultaneous reading and writing of the said data; and
 - viewing playback means for providing playback control of said data independently from the storing of said programs wherein said playback control comprises random access playback, stop, pause, rewind and fast-forward functions;

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1 whereby said time-shifted viewing is selectably delayed relative to initiation of
2 said broadcast audio/video programs and which may be initiated and controlled
3 simultaneously with said storing of said programs.

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5 7. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:
6 archive means for semi-permanent storage of said program data;
7 whereby said archive means is used as a save function for selective retrieval,
8 playback and control of program data.

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10 8. A system as in claim 7 further comprising:
11 viewer playback control capture means for the capture and storage of user
12 playback control data;
13 whereby said viewer playback control data is stored on said archive means

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15 9. A system as in claim 8 further comprising:
16 data transmission means for transmitting said viewer playback control data away
17 from said system;
18 wherein said viewer playback control data is analyzed externally from said
19 system.

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21 10. A system as in claim 9 further comprising:
22 data reception means for receiving broadcast program configuration data;
23 wherein said broadcast program configuration data is operative for configuration
24 of system options of said system for the recording of one or more broadcast programs.

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26 11. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
27 said step of receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs is
28 operable simultaneously on one or more channels and;
29 said step of storing occurs simultaneously for said one or more channels;
30 wherein any of said stored programs from said one or more channels are
31 accessible for said playback and said time-shifted viewing.

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33 12. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:
34 said video input means receives one or more broadcast video/audio
35 programs
36 simultaneously on one or more channels and;
37 said cyclic buffer storage means stores said data simultaneously for said
38 one or more channels;
39 wherein any of said stored programs from said one or more channels are
40 accessible for said
41 playback and said time-shifted viewing.

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43 13. A method as in claim 11 further comprising:
44 said step of receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs is
45 operable simultaneously on two or more channels which are numerically adjacent
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2 14. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:
3 said video input means receives one or more broadcast video/audio
4 programs simultaneously on two or more numerically adjacent channels.
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6 15. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
7 the step of storing programming data which represents a selection of one
8 or more programs to be recorded and stored in said cyclic buffer.
9
10 16. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:
11 programming means to select one or more broadcast programs to be recorded and
12 stored using said storage means;
13 wherein any of said stored programs from said one or more channels are
14 accessible for said playback and said time-shifted viewing.
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